

PATENT SPECIFICATION

366.291

Application Date: Feb. 13, 1931. No. 4505 / 31.

Complete Left: April 18, 1931.

Complete Accepted: Feb. 4, 1932.



PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

A Model Tunnel for Toy Railway Tracks Available also as a Packing Element.

I, FRANK HORNBY, of Meccano Limited, of 236, Binns Road, Old Swan, Liverpool, British, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 Toy locomotives are usually packed in cardboard boxes but owing to the somewhat frail character of such boxes the locomotive is apt to be damaged. The present invention is directed to an element which may be used as a further reinforcement for the usual box packing of the toy locomotive and would be also available for the construction of an imitation tunnel to be used on the toy railway track.

10 According to this invention a sheet of corrugated cardboard of known type is provided, the flat surface of which is preferably printed to imitate the exterior of a tunnel, the flat surface for this purpose being printed to represent rock, verdure or the like. When used as a packing element this corrugated cardboard sheet is wrapped round the toy locomotive which is then packed in the usual cardboard box, the corrugated cardboard sheet forming a very effective protection for a toy loco during transit. The corrugated cardboard sheet when removed from the box may also serve the purpose of an imitation tunnel being bent for this purpose into somewhat semi-circular form so that it may be laid over any portion

of a toy railway track, the outside of the tunnel owing to its printing or embossing giving an artistic and natural appearance to the tunnel. In order rigidly to define and maintain the curved tunnel shape of the cardboard fitting metal band elements are provided adapted to be positioned round both ends of the tunnel, these metal bands having clips so that after the bands have been bent to the desired contour and the curved edge of the bent cardboard inserted therein the clips on the metal bands may be bent round to grip the tunnel edge and so definitely maintain the curved shape of the cardboard tunnel. These metal bands may be longitudinally corrugated to stiffen them and increase their support to the tunnel edge and retain the curvature to which they have been bent even though they be made of very thin gauge metal. The metal bands in their straight or bent form are proposed to be packed with the toy locomotive.

With such an arrangement besides providing a more efficient and protective packing for toy locomotives the cardboard protective device provides a very serviceable simple form of model tunnel for a toy railway track.

Dated this 12th day of February, 1931.

A. J. DAVIES,

Patent Agent,
24, Moorfields, Liverpool.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

A Model Tunnel for Toy Railway Tracks Available also as a Packing Element.

65 I, FRANK HORNBY, of Meccano Limited, of 236, Binns Road, Old Swan, Liverpool, British, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

70 Toy locomotives are usually packed in cardboard boxes but owing to the somewhat frail character of such boxes the

[Price 1/-]

locomotive is apt to be damaged. The present invention relates to an element which may be used as a further protection in addition to the usual box packing of the toy locomotive and is also available for being used as an imitation tunnel on a toy railway track.

80 According to this invention a sheet of corrugated cardboard of known type is provided, the flat side or surface of which

Price 4s 6d

Price 3s

is preferably printed to imitate the exterior of a tunnel, the surface for this purpose being printed to represent rock, verdure or the like. When used as a packing element this corrugated cardboard sheet is wrapped round the toy locomotive which is then packed in the usual cardboard box, the corrugated cardboard sheet forming a very effective protection for a toy loco during transit. The corrugated cardboard sheet when removed from the box may also serve the purpose of an imitation tunnel being bent for this purpose into somewhat semi-circular form with its corrugations disposed longitudinally of the tunnel so that it may be laid over any portion of a toy railway track, elements being provided to reinforce and shape the tunnel edges and to centralise the tunnel on the track.

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which Fig. 1 shows the corrugated cardboard element used as an additional packing for the locomotive. Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the cardboard element opened out to form a tunnel and fitted with a spacing device. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the metal band elements for contouring the tunnel edges, Fig. 4 being a cross section of the element on the line *a-a*, Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the spacing device and Fig. 6 is an end view of the same.

For the purpose of the invention a sheet of corrugated cardboard 1 of known type is provided, the flat surface 2 of which may be printed and coloured on the exterior to represent say rock, verdure or otherwise. This corrugated cardboard sheet as shown in Fig. 1 is wrapped round the toy locomotive 3 before packing in the ordinary way in a cardboard box, the corrugated sheet forming a very effective and additional protection for a toy locomotive during transit. When removed from the box the corrugated sheet 1 may be utilized to form an imitation tunnel being bent for this purpose into the somewhat semicircular form shown in Fig. 2; the corrugated nature of the cardboard while permitting it to bend freely into the semi-circular form maintaining a longitudinal rigidity. The corrugated sheet in this shape may be laid over a part of a toy railway track to form a tunnel, the outside of the tunnel if printed giving an artistic appearance.

In order to define and maintain the curved shape of the tunnel metal bands 4 are provided adapted to be positioned round both ends of the tunnel, these bands having clips 5 on the interior so that after the bands have been bent to

the desired contour and the curved edge of the bent cardboard 1 inserted therein, the clips on the metal bands may be bent in close to grip the tunnel edge and so definitely maintain the curved shape of the cardboard. These bands may be longitudinally corrugated as shown at 6 to stiffen them and increase their support to the tunnel edges and retain the curvature to which they have been bent even though they be made of very thin metal. The metal bands in their straight or bent form are proposed to be packed with the toy locomotive.

In order further to maintain the curved shape of the tunnel and also to centralise it with respect to the track rails 7 passing therethrough, a spacing device 8 may be provided. This consists of a straight strip of metal having end flanges 9 and inner fins 10 stamped out of, and bent up from, the strip 8, the lower edges of the tunnel 1 resting in the grooves between the parts 9 and 10. Inner fins 11 are stamped out of the strip 8 and bent up, as shown in Fig. 5, the distance apart of these fins 11 corresponding to the gauge of the rails 7. The member 8 lies beneath the rails 7 and the fins 11 lie on the exterior of each rail as shown in Fig. 6. In this way the tunnel 1 is maintained centrally of the track.

With such an arrangement besides providing a more protective packing for toy locomotives the corrugated sheet and its elements provide a very serviceable and cheap model tunnel for a toy railway track.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A model tunnel for toy locomotives available also as a packing therefor comprising a sheet of corrugated cardboard bent with its corrugations longitudinal of the tunnel and stiffening elements for attaching to the corrugated sheet in order to maintain it in the curved somewhat semi-circular shape of a tunnel.

2. A corrugated cardboard model tunnel as claimed in Claim 1, having detachable metal stiffening elements in the form of strips adapted to be engaged round the tunnel edges to maintain their curvature.

3. A corrugated cardboard model tunnel as claimed in Claim 1 having stiffening elements for the tunnel edges comprising longitudinally corrugated bands or strips provided with clips adapted to be bent round the tunnel edges and grip the same.

4. A corrugated cardboard model

70

75

80

85

90

95

100

105

110

115

120

125

130

tunnel as claimed in Claim 1 having a spacing device adapted to engage the edges of the tunnel and means on the spacing device for engaging the rails

5 passing through the tunnel in order to maintain the tunnel in position relatively to the track.

10 5. A corrugated cardboard model tunnel as claimed in Claim 4 having a spacing device formed from a metal strip the ends of which are flanged to engage the tunnel edges and having fins or the like projections on the strip to form a

housing engaging the rails and positioning the tunnel over the track.

6. A corrugated cardboard model tunnel for toy railways available also as a packing for a toy locomotive substantially as described and shown in Figs. 1 to 6 inclusive of the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 17th day of April, 1931.

A. J. DAVIES,

Patent Agent,

24, Moorfields, Liverpool.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

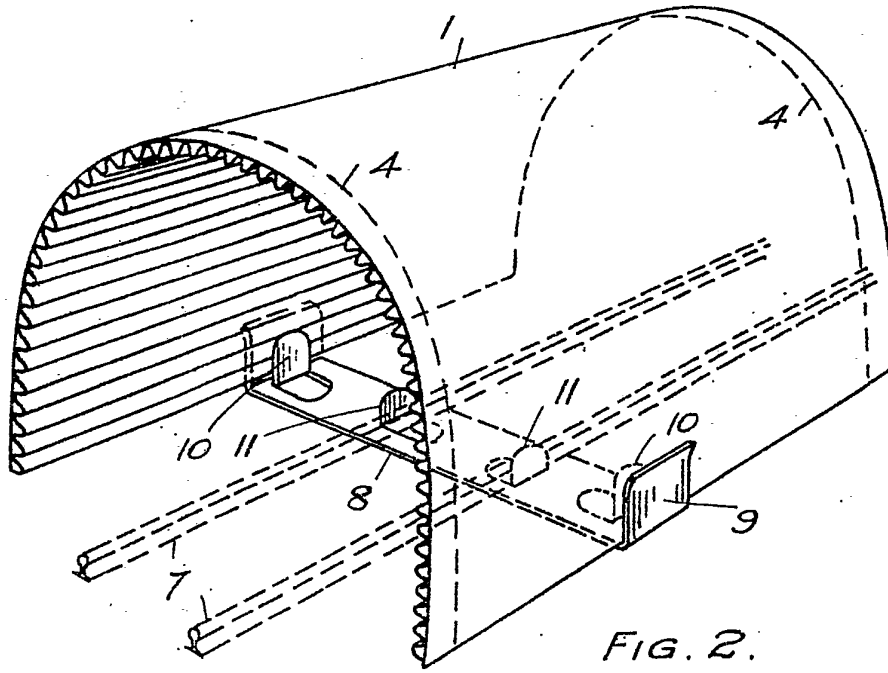


FIG. 2.

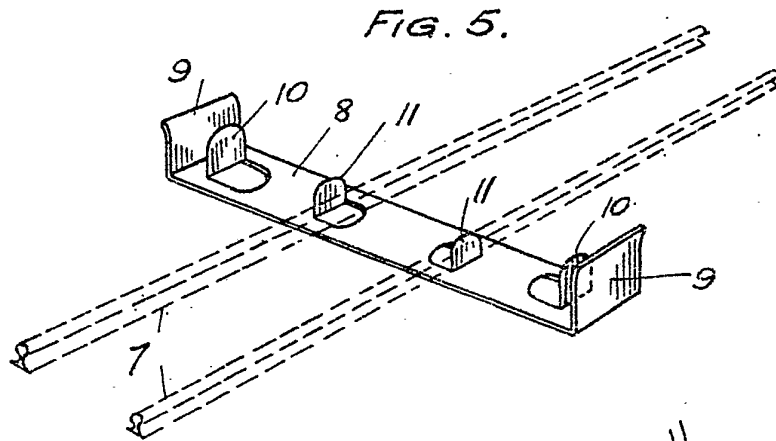


FIG. 5.

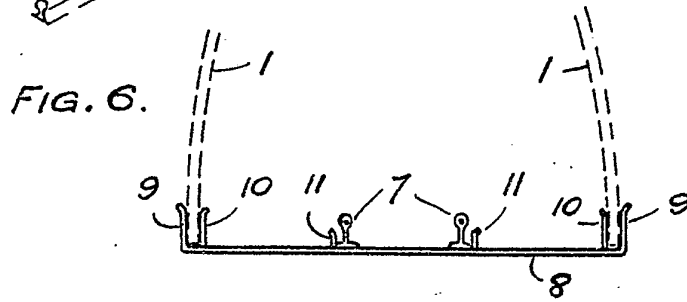


FIG. 6.

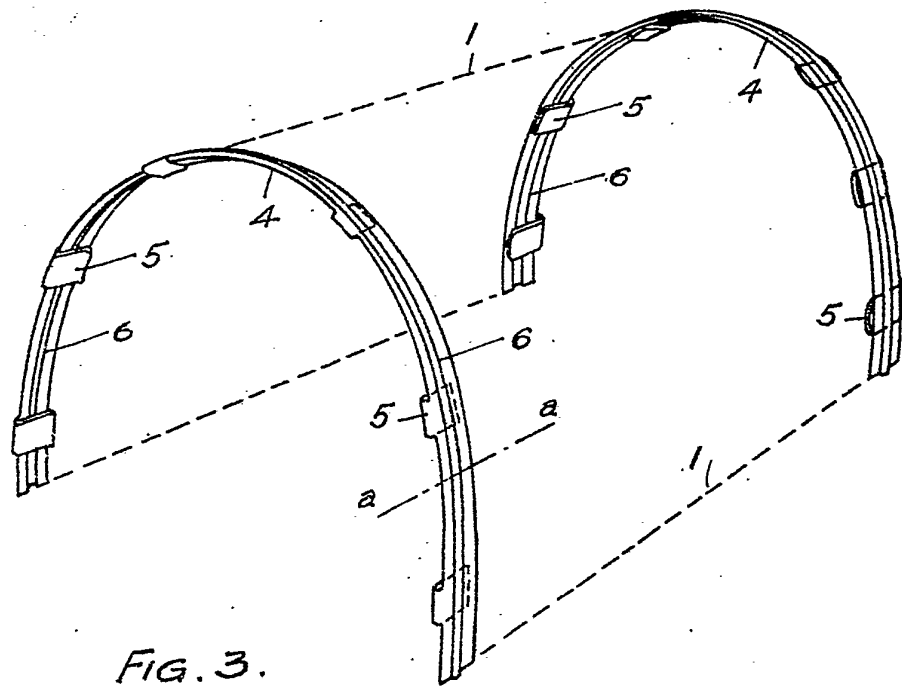


FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

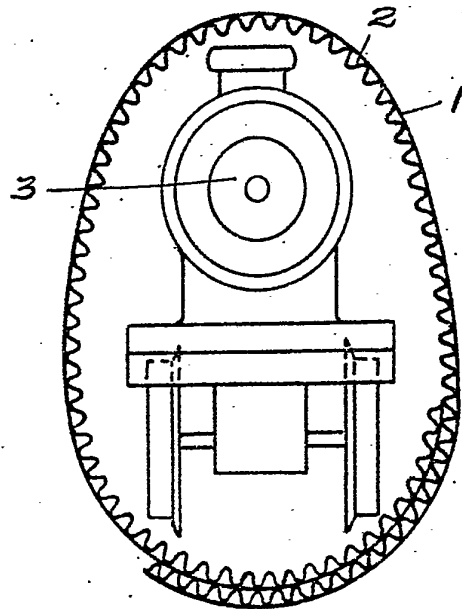


FIG. 1.

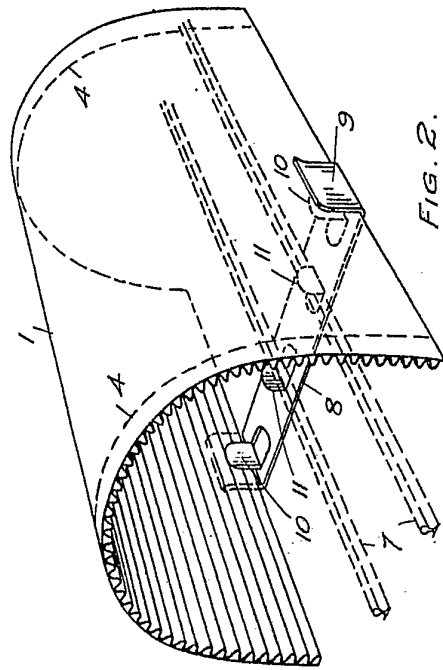


FIG. 2.

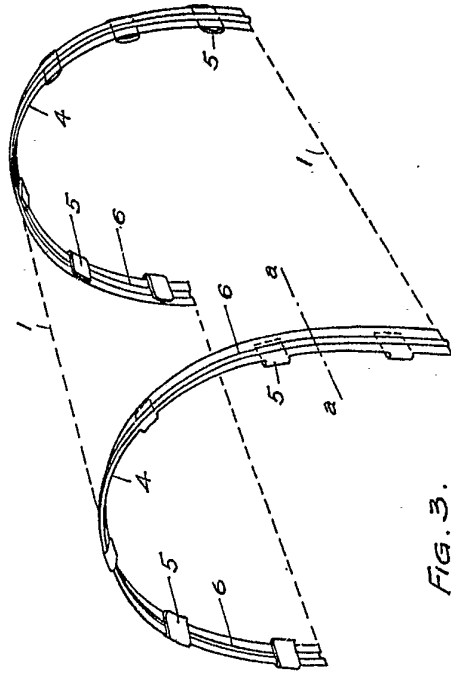


FIG. 3.

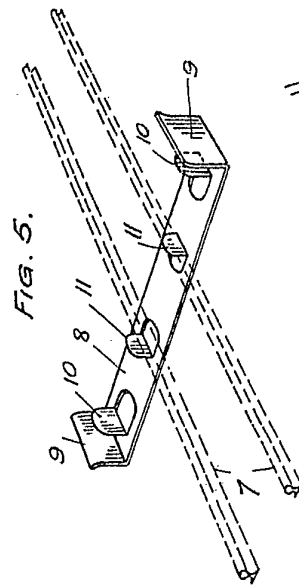


FIG. 5.

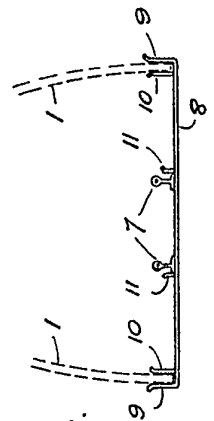


FIG. 6.



FIG. 4.

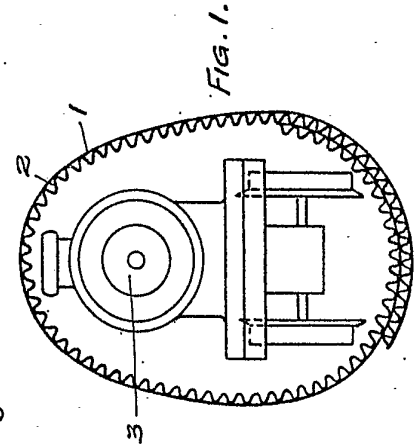


FIG. 1.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]